

A Step by Step Guide to the Licensing Process for Teens in Idaho

At what age can my teen take driver education?

- **At age 14 years and 6 months**, teens may apply for a driver training instruction permit, which is required for teens ages 14 ½ to 17 to take a state approved driver training program.

My teen is 14.5 years old. How do I sign them up for driver education?

- Public driver education is offered at most School Districts (High Schools). Call or check websites at your local high school or district office.

Can my teen take driver education on-line?

- Yes, the only approved on-line program through public education is IDLA (Idaho Digital Learning Academy). Students will sign up for IDLA on-line driver education with their high school counselor or IDLA coordinator at the high school. Students who take the online course will be required to finish the in car driving lesson with the driver education instructor at the high school. Student will need to sign up for both IDLA and in car lessons.

Can my teen take driver education from another high school?

- Yes, any teen who is a resident of Idaho between the ages of 14.5 and 21 years of age can take driver education. As long as the high school has availability you are welcome to take driver education at any high school.

What if my teen is home schooled?

- Any teen who is a resident of Idaho between the ages of 14.5 and 21 years of age can take driver education. As long as the high school has availability you are welcome to take driver education at any high school.

How do I get my child their driver education permit?

- Both teen and parent must visit their local driver exam office and bring required documents.
 - Birth Certificate

- Social Security Card
- Proof of Residency
- Picture Identification
- Verification of Compliance (VOC) letter from your school.

Should I choose a driver education program prior to going to the DMV to get a driver education permit?

- Yes, the DMV will send the permit directly to the driver education teacher. Be sure to specify the exact school or company name of the program.

What is a supervised instruction permit?

- After successfully completing driver education a teen may drive when accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age and supervising while seated next to the driver. No other front seat passengers are allowed and all occupants must be properly belted in the vehicle. During the supervised instruction period the teen must complete 50 hours of supervised driving, 10 hours of which must be at night. Any violation of the SIP requirements during the supervised instruction period will result in cancellation of the permit and requires the permit holder to reapply for a new permit. Upon reapplication, permit holders must start and complete a new six-month supervised instruction period.

What happens after my teen has finished driving for 6 months (50 hours)?

- Having held a supervised instruction permit for at least 6 months and have completed 50 hours of practice driving, they can apply for an intermediate license. They must also pass a road skills test, and written knowledge test. Legal guardians must accompany teens to the licensing exam office to consent to their teens' licensure.

What if my teen is 17 years old?

- **If the applicant is 17 or older**, driver education completion is not required. Drivers under age 18 must provide proof of school enrollment or school completion to obtain their driver license.

What is an intermediate license?

- **A 15-year old** may drive alone in daylight only, unless accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age and sitting beside the driver, with no other passengers in the front seat.

What license restrictions does my teen have?

- **At age 16** the driver is no longer restricted to daylight driving only. Licensees who are under age 17 and in their first 6 months with an intermediate license **may not** drive with more than one non-family passenger under age 17.

Who provides licensing services?

- The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) provides driver licensing services through county sheriffs at offices throughout the state. Third party skills testers, acting as agents of the department, conduct skills tests.

Where can my teen get materials to study for the exam?

- Idaho Transportation Department provides study materials to help your teen get ready for the exams. The Idaho drivers manual is available at any Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office or you can obtain an on-line book at:
<http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/DriverServices/ds.htm>
- There is also a free practice test at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/driver_edu/

What role can I play as a parent to help my teen driver?

- The single most important step you can take to protect the life of your teen is to be actively involved in the learning-to-drive experience. Supervised driving – driving with you in the passenger seat to coach your teen – is actually some of the safest driving your teen will do and helps ease your teen into driving. By teaching under low-risk conditions and then gradually introducing new roads and traffic conditions, you help your teen gain needed experience. Supervised driving will also help you gauge your teen's progress toward solo driving. Even though your teen might be old enough to get a license, you ultimately decide when your teen is ready.

What is the benefit of driver education?

- Turning your teen into a safe driver is a complex task. Part of the process involves learning the rules of the road and how to safely operate a vehicle – two big areas where driver education and training can help tremendously. New drivers need a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and plans to reduce their risk behind the wheel. Quality driver education can help to develop safe driving attitudes, improve hazard recognition and explain how to manage visibility, time and space in traffic.

Is driver education required?

- Completing and passing a state-approved driver training program is required for anyone under age 17 who is applying for an Idaho driver's license.

What is the required number of hours for driver training?

- The state law requires an approved Idaho driver training program consists of a required 30 hours of classroom instruction, six hours of in-car observation in a driver training car and six hours of behind-the-wheel driving with a driver training instructor.

Where can I take driver training?

- Most Idaho school districts offer driver training programs in cooperation with the Department of Education. The public school courses are open to all Idaho residents between the ages of 14 1/2 and 21, even if they are not public school students.
- Driver education is also available through private driving companies. (Private driver education is overseen by the Idaho Bureau of Licensing.)

How do I know if my child is ready for driver education?

- Parents and school teachers are the best judge about the readiness and maturity of their teens for the driver training experience.

Does our local high school or middle school offer driver education?

- Most likely yes, almost every school district in the state of Idaho offers driver education. Check the school website or contact the school district in your area for more information regarding class times and locations.

How do I know if my child is getting a quality driver education program?

- All public instructors are licensed by the Idaho State Department of Education and teach approved content standard education. Instructors are required to complete yearly continuing education.

How can I be more involved in my child's driver education?

- When you're behind the wheel, talk about what you see (road signs, pedestrians, other vehicles, etc.) that could result in the need to change speed, direction or both. Have your teen comment, too. Maintain an ongoing dialogue about your teen's driving, appropriately restrict driving privileges and conduct plenty of supervised practice driving. Idaho requires that parents and their teens conduct 50 hours of supervised practice driving.

How do I know what to do with my teen during the supervised practice driving?

- The Idaho State Department of Education has provided every parent with a parent supervised guide book with step by step lesson plans to help guide you through the process. If you did not receive a book or would like to download an electronic copy: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/driver_edu/ . To request a parent supervised guide book: aurie@sde.idaho.gov

How do I keep track of my teen's supervised driving time?

- There is a log sheet provided within the parent supervised guide book. There is also a mobile phone application called, "road ready". Road ready will track your teens driving time and give you interactive feedback as your teen progresses.

How can I be a good role model?

- Your teen has been watching your driving habits for the last decade. As your teen begins the learning-to-drive process, that focus will likely increase. So, make changes in your driving to prevent any poor driving habits from being passed on. Show you take driving seriously.
 - a. Always wear your safety belt.
 - b. Obey traffic laws.
 - c. Do not use a cell phone while driving.
 - d. Watch your speed.
 - e. Don't tailgate.
 - f. Use your turn signals.
 - g. Don't drive when angry or tired.

My teen is finished with their supervised driving time. Now what?

- Your teen will need to take a road skills and written test to obtain their driver license.

How do I find a road skills tester? <http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/DriverServices/ds.htm>

What is a road skills test?

- The skills test evaluates your ability to drive a vehicle safely, demonstrate good driving habits, and obey traffic laws in a variety of driving situations. It is the final step required in qualifying for the privilege of driving.

Can I go with my teen during the road skills test?

- Yes, your teen will be driving your vehicle and you are welcome to accompany them on the drive. (Please do not disturb the skills tester or coach your child.)

Do we use our own vehicle for the road skills test?

- Yes

What if I took driver education in another state, do I need to take the road skills test?

- Yes, you will be required to complete a road skills test and a written test to obtain your driver license.

How do I transfer my driver education from out of state to Idaho?

- When an applicant requests approval of an out of state driver training course, the applicant will need to contact the Idaho State Department of Education, Driver training division aurie@sde.idaho.gov and provide the following information.
 - Name of student
 - Out of state permit
 - Certification of completing driver education
 - Name and contact information of driver education company/school
 - Parental contact information

How do I know if my driver education class will transfer to Idaho?

- Idaho state law requires a 30 hour classroom, 6 hours behind the wheel training and 6 hours of observation with an instructor. If you completed a course equal to or greater to this requirement it will most likely transfer. We do not accept any parent taught courses.

How much does driver education cost?

- The Idaho State Department of Education does dictate how much a school district charges for driver education. The program is run as a service to the community, not as a business. Check your school district for exact amount, the average across the state for driver education is \$130.00.

If I take the class on-line how do I do the behind-the-wheel portion of driver education?

- If you are taking an IDLA course from your high school you will need to coordinate the driving portion with the school driver education instructor.
- If you are taking driversed.com from a private company you will need to contact the company directly and make arrangements. (Private driver education is overseen by the Idaho Bureau of Licensing.)

How do I know if the on-line course is approved in Idaho?

- Public driver education has only one (1) approved on-line course. Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA)
- Private driver education has two (2) approved on-line courses. Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) and driversed.com

How do I know if the private company is licensed to teach in Idaho?

- Private driver education is overseen by the Idaho Bureau of Licensing, driving business board: <http://ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardPage.aspx?Bureau=DRB> The website will allow you to check a company or individual license.

How do I prepare for a skills test?

- Study the Idaho Driver's Manual.
- Pass the Idaho written test and obtain a receipt allowing you to take the skills test. (\$6.50).
- Make sure the vehicle to be used for the test is in good running condition, is clean and safe to operate, and you have authorization to use it. You must provide proof of insurance and registration prior to taking the test.
- Make an appointment with a certified skills tester.
- The skills test fee is \$17.50 paid directly to the skills tester.

How do I know if I need to take a skills test?

- All new driver license applicants who have never been licensed before must take the skills test.
- Any applicant who has completed an approved driver's training course and the supervised instruction period. Skills test eligibility date is strictly enforced.
- All applicants who have been driving under the authority of an instruction permit.
- Any applicant presenting a foreign license.
- Any applicant whose driver license has been expired for 25 months or more.

What if I do not pass the test?

- If you do not pass the skills test, you may reschedule another test. A three-day waiting period is required by law and you will be required to obtain another receipt for \$6.50 and pay another skills test fee of \$17.50.

What do I do when I pass the test?

- When you have passed your skills test, return to the driver's license office with the sealed envelope which will be given to you by the skills tester. The driver's license office will then issue you a driver license.

What does a skills test include?

- Your skills test will take about 30 minutes to complete, and consists of two parts: the pre-drive check and the road test.